

Ex. Doc. No. 22.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

TRANSCRIPT OF ARMY LIST.

LETTER

FROM THE

SECRETARY OF WAR,

IN PART ANSWER

To the resolution of the House, of the 14th June, 1848, rescinding the resolution of February 16, 1843, relative to the Army and Navy Register.

JANUARY 6, 1849.

Laid upon the table, and ordered to be printed.

WAR DEPARTMENT, January 4, 1849.

SIR: The resolution of the House of Representatives, of June 14, 1848, dispenses with the insertion, in the Army Register, of the table of pay and emoluments received by each of the officers therein named, and in lieu thereof requires to be furnished annually "a transcript of the official army list, in such form as to affix opposite the name of each person contained therein, in separate columns, the annual pay of such officer or person, the amount paid him for rations, servants, and forage, and the gross amount paid or allowed him in all respects, for and on his account for and during the preceding fiscal year."

From the reports of the adjutant general and second and third auditors, of which I herewith enclose copies, it appears that the transcript has been made out, but that the auditors are not yet prepared to furnish the money items required to complete the table.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. L. MARCY,

Secretary of War.

HON. R. C. WINTHROP,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, January 4, 1849.

SIR: I have the honor to report that the "transcript of the official army list," &c., as required by the resolution of the House of Representatives, dated June 14, 1848, has been ready, so far as this office is concerned, a month since. The amount of *pay, &c.*, received by the officers of the army can only be ascertained from the accounting officers of the Treasury Department, who, I believe, were some time since called on for the necessary information.

As the information called for by the resolution, respecting the amount of *pay received*, of which this office has no knowledge, I respectfully suggest whether it be not expedient to devolve the business of making up the consolidated statement upon some one chief of bureau, after all the data shall have been furnished. The annual Army Register will be ready about the 25th instant.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. JONES,

Adjutant General.

Hon. WM. L. MARCY,
Secretary of War.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Second Auditor's Office, December 1, 1848.

SIR: In reply to your letter of the 27th ultimo, I regret that I am obliged to say that the paymasters' accounts, embracing payments to officers during the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1848, not being settled, it will not be possible to make the report for that period, as directed by you. That for 1847 will be ready by the 1st January next, and that for 1848 will be prepared as speedily as possible. I hope to have it completed during the approaching session of Congress.

With great respect, I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,

JNO. M. McCALLA,
Second Auditor.

Hon. WM. L. MARCY,
Secretary of War.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Third Auditor's Office, December 23, 1848.

SIR: "The list of reports to be made to Congress previous to, or soon after the 1st of January, in reference to the heads of bureaus for their information," &c., referred by the Secretary of War, December 21, 1848, was received at this office yesterday. Of the reports therein mentioned, the one in regard to "the allowances of all officers of the army," has reference to this office, and

it was only upon the receipt of the letter of the Secretary of War, dated November the 27th, that it was understood that such a report would be required for the present year, in the same manner as had been done under the resolution of February, 1843.

This duty can only be satisfactorily performed by clerks conversant with the quartermaster's accounts, each of whom, at the date of the receipt of the above letter of November 27, was engaged in the settlement of accounts urgently called for by the disbursing officers, and which could not be dropped without detriment to those interested, some of whom were under orders for the extreme western posts, and others in personal attendance here. Some progress, however, of a preliminary nature, has been made.

I must be permitted to remark that a report of the allowances received by the officers of the army within the present year, is a work of great labor, and, as has already been remarked, it can only be satisfactorily done by those who can be spared from the quartermaster branch of this office, one requiring much time; which, I think, will readily be conceded, when it is considered that an account must be opened for every individual officer; that, for each name, there must be eight or more columns for the various items, and that these items are to be extracted from the vouchers of the quarterly abstracts and returns for the entire year; that the items of fuel, forage, and stationary, &c., are to be reduced to their money value at their cost price; and that, when the issuing officer is not also the one who made the purchase, it is matter of tedious search to ascertain the actual cost price of each article.

In conclusion, I have to state it as my opinion that no disposable force of this office could have made out the report in question by the time specified in your letter of November, without injuring the public service, injury to the claimants in waiting, and derangement of the current business of the office; and that it will require, with such force as can be detailed on that service, at least two months to accomplish it.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

PETER HAGNER, *Auditor.*

Hon. W. L. MARCY,
Secretary of War.

